[17th February 1955

Fans for Nurses' Home

* 787 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of night duty nurses of the Government Hospitals in Madras City residing in Nurses' Quarters in Park Town:

(*b*) whether electric fans have been fitted to their rooms;

(*c*) whether the Government Hospital authorities in the City have recommended the provision of electric fans; and

(*d*) if so, the action taken by the Government on that recommendation?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) Forty-nine members of the nursing staff including nurse pupils who are detailed for night duty, stay in the Nurses' Home attached to the Government General Hospital, Madras. Of them 45 belong to the Government General Hospital and four belong to the Government Stanley Hospital, Madras.

" (*b*) Only 12 fans are provided in the rooms occupied by the gazetted members of the nursing staff. Other rooms have not been provided with fans.

" (*c*) & (*d*) Yes, Sir, but the proposals have been deferred in view of the financial stringency."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—" Why is the Hon. Minister not interested in these night duty nurses who are compelled to disown sleep by night and equally compelled to court sleep by day so that they may recoup the loss of sleep they had lost during the duty hours? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" I quite appreciate the keen interest which the hon. Member is taking in providing facilities for the comfort and convenience of nurses. My sympathies are with them, but my Hon. Colleague (the Finance Minister) on the left stands in the way." (Laughter.)

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" Since the hon. Member Sri Balakrishnan is very much interested in providing fans to the nurses and the Hon. Minister is not in a position to provide fans in all the rooms occupied by the nursing staff due to financial stringency, may I suggest that the Hon. Minister may arrange to provide punkahs in those rooms? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Punkahs also cost money. Somebody has to pull them."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY:—" May I know whether the term ' nurse ' includes male nurses also and, if so, whether the hon. Member Sri Balakrishnan is interested in them also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" We do not call them as ' male ' and ' female ' nurses. They are called ' men ' and ' women ' nurses."